

What is a Crosswalk?

Crosswalks are either marked or unmarked. Texas Motor Vehicle Laws define a "crosswalk" as the portion of a roadway at an intersection, which is an extension of the curb and property lines of the intersecting street or is any other portion of a roadway which is marked as a pedestrian crossing location by painted lines. A marked crosswalk is any crosswalk which is delineated by white painted markings placed on the pavement. **All other crosswalk locations are therefore unmarked.**

How are Crosswalks Used?

At any crosswalk (marked or unmarked) drivers must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians. Crosswalks are marked mainly to encourage pedestrians to use a particular crossing. **Studies conducted on the relative safety of crosswalks support minimal installation of marked crosswalks.**

The City of San Diego, California, studied intersections at which there were both marked and unmarked crosswalks. The results were surprising. Although 2 1/2 times as many people used the marked

crosswalks, 6 times as many crashes occurred in the marked crosswalks. Similar studies in other cities have confirmed these results.



What Causes Crashes at Marked Crosswalks?

Research suggests that marked crosswalks give pedestrians a false sense of security. Pedestrians often step off the curb into the crosswalk expecting drivers of vehicles approaching the crosswalk to stop. However, drivers frequently fail to stop and a crash results. At all crosswalks,

both marked and unmarked, **it is the pedestrian's responsibility to be cautious and alert before starting to cross the street.**

At mid-block crosswalks on multi-lane roadways, another frequent factor in causing crashes involves the driver of a vehicle in the lane nearest to the curb stopping for a pedestrian that is waiting to cross or who is already in the crosswalk. The driver of a second vehicle traveling in the lane next to the stopped vehicle tries to pass the stopped vehicle and hits the pedestrian, even though it is illegal for drivers to pass a stopped vehicle at a crosswalk. Pedestrians should be very cautious when walking in a crosswalk, especially when their visibility is limited by vehicles already stopped at the crosswalk.

Where are Crosswalks Normally Marked?

Crosswalks are marked at inter-sections where there is substantial conflict between vehicle and pedestrian movements, where significant pedestrian concentrations occur, where pedestrians could not otherwise recognize the proper place to cross, and where traffic movements are controlled. Examples of such locations are as follows:

- Approved school crossings.

- Signalized intersections where there is significant pedestrian traffic.

These examples follow the philosophy of marking crosswalks as a form of encouragement. In the first case, we are encouraging school children to use a crossing which has been identified as a preferred place to cross a street. In the second case, we are encouraging all pedestrians to utilize the safety benefit of a traffic signal. It is the City's policy not to paint crosswalks at midblock locations where traffic is not controlled by stop signs or traffic signals.

For more information, contact us at the address or phone numbers below.



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Marked Crosswalks



City of San Antonio
Department of Public Works